

REMARKS

The specification is amended herein to delete references to the claims to put the application in more standard U.S. format.

With respect to the omitted figures described in the specification, Applicants elect option III in the Notice to maintain the original filing date of the present application. It is submitted that the subject matter of Figs. 13 and 14 proposed to be added to the application is adequately described in the specification such that no new matter concerns are presented by their addition.

In the application, there are four different forms of airbag apparatuses that are shown and described. Figures 13 and 14 relate to the third form of an airbag 321 wherein a single tether 327 connects at opposing portions of the central panel 321a. Figure 15 on file in the present application also shows a view of the airbag 321 with the tether 327 connected at the rear portion of the panel 321a. Added Figures 13 and 14 simply show this tether 327 also connected at the front portion of the panel 321a, which arrangement is well described in the application at page 4, lines 5-9 and page 12, lines 4-6. Moreover, many of the filed claims cover this precise arrangement and, in fact, claim 6 describes it with particular clarity. Claim 6 recites a connector (such as tether 327) that is connected to the air bag central panel at one end and to the central panel (or optionally to side panels) at its opposite end. Taken together, these descriptions of the air bag 321 clearly support the subject matter shown in Figs. 13 and 14.

In addition, Fig. 13 is a front view of the air bag 321 and Fig. 14 is a side view of the air bag 321 which identically track the corresponding views of Figs. 3 and 4, respectively, for the first version of the air bag 121 described in the application, except for the number of tether attachments to the front portion of the central panels of the respective airbags, which aspect is well described in the text of the specification and the claims as set forth above.

Application No. 10/601,927
Amendment dated August 28, 2003
Reply to Notice of Omitted Items of August 18, 2003

Based on the foregoing, addition of Figs. 13 and 14 to the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St. J. Favakeh', written over the word 'By'.

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August 28, 2003

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